

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Chapter 2 – Section 5 presents...

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors

I. Comets

A. Chunks of _____ and _____ whose orbits are usually very long ellipses

B. Think of a dirty snowball slowly sublimating (solid to gas w/o passing through a liquid phase)

1. _____

C. Three Parts

1. Nucleus - _____

2. Coma - _____

3. Tail - _____

D. Examples

1. _____ (1997)

2. _____ (every 76 years)

a. 1758, 1834, 1910, 1986, 2062

II. Asteroid

A. _____

B. Asteroid Belt

1. Area between _____ and _____ where most asteroids _____ the sun.

C. Chicxulub Crater - _____

1. Large Asteroid Struck ~ _____
2. 200km in diameter
3. _____

III. Meteors

A. Meteoroid - _____

1. Come from _____ or _____
2. Caused _____ on moon and Mercury

B. Meteor - _____

1. Burned by _____

C. Meteorite - _____

1. Usually made of _____ and _____

So, what's the difference between Meteoroids, Meteors, and Meteorites?

Basically, the rock's _____.

When rock or dust is floating around in space it's a _____.

When it's passing through the Earth's atmosphere causing a streak of light (shooting star) it's a

_____. If it makes its way through the atmosphere and hits the surface of the

Earth it becomes a _____. One rock can go through all these phases.

Let's make a Diagram:

So what's the difference between an Asteroid and a Meteoroid?

_____. An asteroid is a really big rock that's still too small to be a planet

(measured in _____). A meteoroid can range in size from a car to a speck

of dust (measured in _____, _____, or even

_____).